Amendments To The Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A stent having a longitudinal axis comprising:

a non-woven tubular element having a plurality of openings therein, the tubular element comprising a plurality of interconnected members which form at least one continuous pathway which extends all the way around the longitudinal axis, the interconnected members having an outside surface facing outside the stent, an inner surface facing the longitudinal axis, and a side portion there between, the stent further comprising at least one frangible restraining member which is made of a different material from that of the stent, the frangible member attached to only the side portion of the two interconnected members and restraining at least two interconnected members from self-expansion, at least a portion of the stent constructed and arranged to self-expand upon breaking of the at least one frangible restraining member.

Claim 2. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the portion of the stent which is constructed and arranged to self-expand upon breaking of the frangible restraining member is made of a shape-memory material.

Claim 3. (Original) The stent of claim 2 wherein the shape memory material is from the group consisting of shape-memory metals and shape-memory plastics.

Claim 4. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the entirety of the stent is constructed and arranged to self-expand upon breaking of the frangible restraining member.

Claim 5. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 1 wherein the plurality of interconnected members and the at least one frangible restraining member are constructed from the same material.

Claim 6. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the at least one frangible restraining member is constructed from a different material than the interconnected members.

Claim 7. (Original) The stent of claim 1 comprising a plurality of frangible restraining members, each of which extends between at least two adjacent interconnected members.

Claim 8. (Original) The stent of claim 7 wherein the frangible restraining members are selected from at least one member of the group consisting of: frangible welds, frangible glues, frangible solder, and any combination thereof.

Claim 9. (Original) The stent of claim 7 wherein the frangible restraining members are

distributed uniformly throughout the stent.

Claim 10. (Original) The stent of claim 7 wherein the frangible restraining members are distributed about at least one end of the stent.

Claim 11. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 7 wherein the stent is capable of withstanding an outward pressure of up to 2 atmospheres without breakage of the frangible restraining members, the pressures selected from the group consisting of: radial pressure, axial pressure, and any combination thereof.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 7 wherein the stent is capable of withstanding an outward pressure of up to 5 atmospheres without breakage of the frangible restraining members, the pressures selected from the group consisting of: radial pressure, axial pressure, and any combination thereof.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 7 wherein the stent is capable of withstanding an outward pressure of up to 12 atmospheres without breakage of the frangible restraining members, the pressures selected from the group consisting of: radial pressure, axial pressure, and any combination thereof.

Claim 14. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the frangible restraining members includes a circumferential extending component.

Claim 15. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the frangible restraining member includes a curved portion.

Claim 16. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 7 wherein the plurality of frangible restraining member are arranged to form one or more helical bands.

Claim 17. (Withdrawn) A stent comprising a generally tubular body of non-woven elements and at least one frangible restraining member disposed about at least a portion of the tubular body, the at least one frangible restraining member made of the same material as the tubular body, at least a portion of the stent capable of self-expanding upon breaking of the at least one frangible restraining member.

Claim 18. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 17 wherein the generally tubular body and the at least one frangible restraining member are made of the same material.

Claim 19. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 18 wherein the generally tubular body and the at least one frangible restraining member are made of the same metals.

Claim 20. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 17 wherein the generally tubular body and the at least one frangible restraining member are made of different materials.

Claim 21. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 17 wherein the generally tubular body and the at least one frangible restraining member are made of different metals.

Claim 22. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 17 wherein the at least one frangible restraining member is helical wound about the tubular body.

Claim 23. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 17 wherein the at least one frangible restraining member is in the form of a band disposed at least partially about the circumference of the tubular member.

Claim 24. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 17 comprising a plurality of frangible restraining members.

Claim 25. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 17 wherein the at least one frangible restraining member is interweaved through the tubular body.

Claim 26. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 17 where the entirety of the stent is capable of self-expanding upon breaking of the at least one frangible restraining member.

Claim 27. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 17 wherein the stent is capable of withstanding radially and/or axially outward pressures of up to 2 atmospheres without breakage of the at least one frangible restraining member.

Claim 28. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 17 wherein the stent is capable of withstanding radially and/or axially outward pressures of up to 5 atmospheres without breakage of the at least one frangible restraining member.

Claim 29. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 17 wherein the stent is capable of withstanding radially and/or axially outward pressures of up to 12 atmospheres without breakage of the at least one frangible restraining member.

Claim 30. (Currently Amended) A stent having a longitudinal axis comprising a generally tubular body having interconnected members which form at least one continuous pathway which extends around the longitudinal axis, the stent further comprising at least one frangible restraining member disposed completely between ~~about at least a portion of the tubular body and restraining~~ at least two interconnected members and restraining the interconnected members from self-expansion, at least a portion of the stent capable of self-expanding upon breaking of the

frangible restraining member, the frangible restraining member at least partially constructed from metal, plastic or a combination thereof.

Claim 31. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 30 wherein the frangible restraining member is helical wound about the tubular body.

Claim 32. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 30 wherein the frangible restraining member is in the form of a band disposed about the circumference of the tubular member.

Claim 33. (Original) The stent of claim 30 comprising a plurality of frangible restraining members.

Claim 34. (Original) The stent of claim 30 where the entirety of the stent is capable of self-expanding upon breaking of the frangible restraining member.

Claim 35. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 30 wherein the stent is capable of withstanding outward pressures of up to 2 atmospheres without breakage of the frangible restraining member, the pressures selected from the group consisting of: radial pressure, axial pressure, and any combination thereof.

Claim 36. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 30 wherein the stent is capable of withstanding outward pressures of up to 5 atmospheres without breakage of the frangible restraining member, the pressures selected from the group consisting of: radial pressure, axial pressure, and any combination thereof.

Claim 37. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 30 wherein the stent is capable of withstanding outward pressures of up to 12 atmospheres without breakage of the frangible restraining member, the pressures selected from the group consisting of: radial pressure, axial pressure, and any combination thereof.

Claim 38. (Currently Amended) A stent formed of a plurality of interconnected struts, the interconnected struts including at least one temporary ~~struts~~ strut and permanent struts, the permanent struts having an inner surface and an outer surface and fully defining at least one opening in the stent, the at least one temporary strut restraining self-expansion of at least one permanent strut about the at least one opening, the at least one temporary strut but not the permanent struts breaking upon the application of a predetermined outward pressure to the stent, at least a portion of the stent constructed and arranged to self-expand upon breaking of the at least one temporary strut, no portion of the temporary strut overlapping any portion of the outer

surface of the permanent struts being restrained the pressures selected from the group consisting of: radial pressure, axial pressure, and any combination thereof.

Claim 39. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 38 wherein the predetermined outward pressure is in excess of 2 atmospheres.

Claim 40. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 38 wherein the predetermined outward pressure is in excess of 12 atmospheres.

Claim 41: (Original) A method of delivering a stent to a desired bodily location comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a catheter with an expandable member and a stent as in claim 1 disposed thereabout;

(b) inserting the stent and catheter in a bodily vessel and delivering the stent to the desired bodily location;

(c) expanding the expandable member to break the at least one frangible restraining member; and thereafter

(d) allowing the stent to self-expand.

Claim 42. (Original) The method of claim 41 further comprising the step of:

(e) seating the stent into the desired body location.

Claim 43. (Withdrawn) A method of delivering a stent to a desired bodily location comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a catheter with an expandable member and a stent as in claim 17 disposed thereabout;

(b) inserting the stent and catheter in a bodily vessel and delivering the stent to the desired bodily location;

(c) expanding the expandable member to break the at least one frangible restraining member; and thereafter

(d) allowing the stent to self-expand.

Claim 44. (Original) A method of delivering a stent to a desired bodily location comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a catheter with an expandable member and a stent as in claim 30 disposed thereabout;

(b) inserting the stent and catheter in a bodily vessel and delivering the stent to the desired bodily location;

(c) expanding the expandable member to break the at least one frangible restraining member; and thereafter

(d) allowing the stent to self-expand.

Claim 45. (Original) A method of delivering a stent to a desired bodily location comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a catheter with an expandable member and a stent as in claim 38 disposed thereabout;

(b) inserting the stent and catheter in a bodily vessel and delivering the stent to the desired bodily location;

(c) expanding the expandable member to break the at least one frangible restraining member; and thereafter

(d) allowing the stent to self-expand.